I wish to urge upon the Government the pressing need to launch more schemes to provide soft loans to farmers and the poor people in the rural as well as urban areas. The loan distribution target of the banks in the country for the year 2005-2006, is Rs, 22,036 crores. Out of this Rs. 12,345 crores is allocated for agricultural sector. Though this is more than the allocation for agriculture sector last year, there is a need to double this allocation. As agriculture is subjected to the vagaries of nature, farmers' future is uncertain. We all know how badly farmers have been hit in Tamil Nadu in the recent rains and floods. that is why it is necessary to provide soft loans to farmers. Such a step will also increase the agricultural production and safeguard the food security of the country. In the same way, the urban and rural poor, who are dependent on other avocations, should also be given soft loans in order to eradicate poverty. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has demanded for increasing the ratio of bank share to 3 percent. Now, the banks give loans under Women Self-Help Group Scheme in the ratio of 1:1.3. That is, if the rotational fund of Self-Help Group is Rs. 1000, the banks give Rs. 1300 as loan. This should be incresed to Rs. 3000 immediately. Such a step will encourage the saving habit among people and will be very useful to the poor. In Tamil Nadu 3.5 lakh people of Self-Help Groups are being benefited due to the initiatives taken by Tamil Nadu Government. So, I appeal to the Centre to launch new loan schemes for the farmers and the poor. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Hon. Members, I, again, seek your cooperation just for half-a-minute. A very important Bill needs to be introduced. It will just take half-a-minute. May I have your permission?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SIR DINESH TRIVEDI): Mr. Sharad Pawar to introduce the Bill.

GOVERNMENT BILLS (*contd.*)

The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Bill, 2005.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a bill to

provide for prevention, control and eradication of infectious and contagious diseases effecting animals, for prevention of outbreak or spreading of such diseases from one State to another, and to meet the international obligations of India for facilitating import and export of animals and animal products and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—(*contd.*)

Demand for proper disposal of urban and industrial waste in the Country

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this House towards the rising problem of urban and industrial waste management. In the absence of efficient recycling facilities, such a waste is causing environmental pollution and severe health hazards in the urban centres and the adjoining areas. In Delhi, 7,000 tonnes of bio and urban waste is produced daily. The metro also produces about sixty thousand tonnes of industrial waste per day, and that remains untreated in the absence of recycling facility. Despite the directions from the Supreme Court, the Government of Delhi and the civic authorities have not been able to set up a recycling facility. The residents of a locality, which was identified for setting up such a facility, have protested against it. As reported, a proposal is under consideration to shift the recycling facility to Bhiwadi in Rajasthan. If it were true, it is, indeed, an alarming situation. Such a proposal wreaks callous negligence towards the rights of the people of Bhiwadi to live in a cleaner environment. It ignores the health hazards that the local people of Bhiwadi may face, due to such a plant. Such a proposal is unjust on the account that it compromises with the rights and interests of people of Bhiwadi to safeguard interests in Delhi. If a facility is hazardous for Delhi, it is hazardous for Bhiwadi too. I call upon the Government to kindly ascertain the facts with the Governments of Delhi and Rajasthan in this regard and, if found true, stop the shifting of recycling facility to Bhiwadi.